

flooding to mine officials who ordered evacuation of all adjoining shafts.

Thirty-three of the miners quickly escaped the churning waters as the river took over the mine, but forty-five men remained trapped below as the river swirled into the breach. Thirty-three miners eventually made their way up an abandoned air shaft located a few hundred feet upriver from the breach. Twelve men remained missing.

Mr. Speaker, hope for these twelve brave miners endured for several days as family members kept vigil on the river bank. Eventually, methane gas began to flow from the mine and the officials had no choice but to end the rescue attempt. Each of the survivors had his story of escape and told the stories of those who did not.

For sixty-four hours after the disaster, the river poured more than two and a half million gallons of water into the shafts each minute. The cave-in allowed more than ten billion gallons of river water to surge underground. For three days, crews pushed, pulled, and hoisted fifty ton railroad cars into the void. They added four hundred one-ton coal cars and at least twenty-five thousand cubic yards of dirt and rocks. Finally, the giant hole was plugged. Pumping began to save the other shafts and search teams were dispatched to look for bodies.

Mr. Speaker, the Knox Mine Disaster was the beginning of the end of anthracite coal mining in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Officials eventually discovered the company had illegally dug beneath the river bed which extended far beyond legal mining boundaries. No proper surveying had been done and although industry standard was thirty-five feet of rock cover, the miners had followed company orders and quarried up to a mere six feet below the river. Knox Coal Company had ignored orders from federal inspectors to cease operations. Several company officials were indicted. Although deep mining continued in the Northeast into the 1970's, the high cost of resulting new safety regulations coupled with declining demand eventually ended deep mining in the northern coal field.

Mr. Speaker, the Knox Mine Disaster is a turning point in the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The image of the grieving families huddled along the banks of the river, exhausted survivors climbing out of the earth and huge train cars being heaved into the whirlpool is still fresh in the minds of most of the area's residents. The disaster is commemorated in the local press every year and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will dedicate a historical marker this year. I join with the families of both the victims and the survivors of this horrible disaster in commemorating their bravery and remembering their sacrifice.

#### REFORM OF THE MINING LAW OF 1872

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to introduce, once again, comprehen-

sive legislation to reform the Mining Law of 1872. I am pleased to note that the distinguished gentleman from California, GEORGE MILLER, and PETER DEFAZIO of Oregon are joining me in introducing this measure.

Some may view the introduction of this legislation as an exercise in futility. They are those who benefit from the production of valuable hardrock minerals from certain federal lands without payment of either rent or royalty to the American public. They are those who benefit from the hodgepodge of minimal regulation governing the reclamation of these lands and the lack of suitable environmental safeguards to protect the American public. Yet others, others view the introduction of this measure as a ray of hope. They are those who are concerned that in the last year of the 20th Century the United States still actually allows multinational conglomerates to mine gold, silver and copper from our federal lands for free. They are those, countless citizens, who live in the vicinity of these operations, who must contend with maimed landscapes and polluted streams. And all of us must wonder, is this the type of legacy we wish to leave to future generations?

The Mining Law of 1872 today is an anachronism that will not die. Enacted in an era when the policy of the United States was to populate the West partially by making free land and free minerals available to those who would brave an unsettled and wild region, it has resisted substantial reform despite countless attempts to modernize it and make it responsible to more current policies governing the management of our public domain.

The bill we are introducing today is the very same which passed the House of Representatives by a three-to-one margin during the 103rd Congress. Reintroduced during the 104th and 105th Congresses, it was held hostage by the Resources Committee. Even under a Republican majority, I remain convinced that if allowed to proceed to the House floor, this bill or something similar to it would pass the full House of Representatives.

The issue of insuring a fair return to the public in exchange for the disposition of public resources, and the issue of properly managing our public domain lands, is neither Republican or Democrat. It is simply one that makes sense it we are to be good stewards of the public domain and meet our responsibilities to the American people. This means that the Mining law of 1872 must be reformed.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. HOLLAND

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, James W. Holland. On Saturday, January 16, 1999, Mr. Holland, along with his friends and family, will celebrate his retirement and honor his five decades of public service. The celebration will take place at Marquette-on-the-Lagoon in Gary, Indiana.

In 1943, James Holland graduated from Rock Island High School in Illinois. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Northwestern University in 1950, he continued his education at Valparaiso University, completing a Master's degree in Liberal Studies. From 1951 through 1968, he taught twelfth grade Government and Economics in Gary. In 1968, Mr. Holland became the executive for the City of Gary Model Cities Program. Subsequently, as Principal Associate of Jacobs Company, he authored administrative manuals that became the national standard for the Model Cities Program. Mr. Holland devised and established basic Model Cities structures for 15 cities, which led to lengthy on-site consultancies in major United States cities. In 1980, he was one of twenty Fellows selected annually from hundreds of nominees to attend the Harvard University Fellow Program for Senior Executives. Additionally, he served as Deputy Mayor of the City of Gary from 1976 through 1988. As Deputy Mayor, he supervised 38 department heads and administered an over \$40 million annual budget, as well as over \$100 million in federal programs.

Mr. Holland has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of Northwest Indiana, especially the transportation systems of Gary, Indiana.

After 10 years of dedicated service, Mr. Holland is retiring as President of Gary Intercity Lines and General Manager of the Gary Public Transportation Corporation. Under his management, Gary Public Transportation Corporation has won numerous safety awards and other awards from the Indiana Transit Association and the American Public Transportation Association. Additionally, Mr. Holland has served on numerous transportation committees. Mr. Holland was Chairman of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, as well as a past member of the Executive Board of the Northwest Indiana General Assembly Study Commission on State Transportation.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. Mr. Holland's large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. His exceptional work in the transportation sector of Northwest Indiana will be greatly missed. Fortunately, the community as a whole will continue to profit from his unselfish involvement to make Northwest Indiana a better place in which to live and work. I sincerely wish him a long, happy, healthy and productive retirement.

#### HONORING THE FIELDING INSTITUTE

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fielding Institute.

The Fielding Institute has been a leader in distance learning for mid-career professionals since it was founded in Santa Barbara, California in 1974.

With the development of a revolutionary "Learning Community" concept that provides